

# Maryland SHIP "Health Action" Newsletter

February 14, 2014

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Governor Martin O'Malley  
Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown  
DHMH Secretary Josh Sharfstein

## CHRC Grant Expands Access and Reduces Hospital Admissions and Readmissions



The *Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC)* has awarded 20 grants statewide, totaling \$2.85 million, to provide services for an estimated 50,000 Maryland residents (DHMH, 2014). The grants are to "expand access in underserved

areas of Maryland, reduce health disparities, and help support innovative community-hospital partnerships that will help reduce hospital emergency department visits, admissions and readmissions" according to a statement by commission officials. The call for proposals focused on six distinct areas: reducing infant mortality, increasing access to dental services, expanding primary care access, integrating behavioral health services in the community, building capacity of safety net providers, and addressing childhood obesity.

Click [here](#) to read the press release.

## Nominate a Self-Management Model Community

### Self-Management Alliance

The *Self-Management Alliance* is accepting nominations for communities in which self-management support is provided through a systematic approach.

Nominees should:

- integrate primary health care and community organizations to provide collaborative support for consumers and their families.
- encourage managing one's health, and
- focus on widely dispersing a self-management approach to chronic conditions and healthy behaviors in the health care system and the community.

If your community follows this approach of self-management, please share your story.

Click [here](#) to join the discussion and submit your nomination.

Click [here](#) for more information about managing chronic conditions in Maryland.

## DHMH Releases Report on Continuity of Care for the Seriously Mentally Ill

The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene released a report from the [Continuity of Care Advisory Panel](#), which included recommendations to improve the state's behavioral health service delivery system, health outcomes, and disparities that prevent care for patients with severe mental illness. According to the report, interruptions in treatment for individuals with serious mental illness can delay recovery. The advisory panel examined barriers to continuity of care including economic, social, legal, and clinical concerns. The report includes 25 recommendations in the following categories:

- accessibility of mental health records,
- services to address the needs of individuals with serious mental illness,
- workforce training,
- mental health literacy,
- additional areas for research,
- delegated decision making,
- services for court-involved individuals, and
- involuntary commitment.

Click [here](#) to read the press release.

Click [here](#) for more information about the Continuity of Care Advisory Panel.

Click [here](#) to view the final report.

View the [SHIP measure](#) and [tools](#) for reducing emergency department visits related to behavioral health conditions.

## NACCHO Report Surveys Status of Local Health Departments

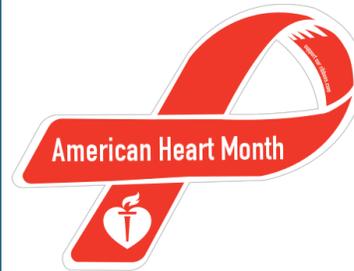
# NACCHO

[National Association of County & City Health Officials](#)

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) recently released a report to develop an understanding of the infrastructure of local health departments. A total of 2,532 local health departments were included in the study population, including 24 respondents from Maryland. According to the profile study findings, 56% of local health departments have official quality improvement plans. Additional findings show that the local workforce decreased by 28,000 employees, from 190,000 to 162,000, and funding for emergency preparedness decreased by approximately 45% over the last three years.

Click [here](#) for more information and to access the 2013 National Profile of Local Health Departments.

## February is American Heart Month



February is American Heart Month. Heart disease is any disorder that impacts the heart's ability to function normally and is a leading cause of death in Maryland. In Maryland, the 2011 heart disease death rate was 171.4 per 100,000 population. The most common type is coronary artery disease, which can lead to a heart

attack. High blood pressure, also known as hypertension, is a major risk factor for heart disease. During American Heart Month, groups across the nation are joining together and wearing red in support of heart disease awareness and prevention. Check community calendars in your area for information about special observances near you.

Click [here](#) to find out how to get involved.

Click [here](#) for more information about Heart Disease and Stroke in Maryland.

Click [here](#) for more information about the Maryland Million Hearts Initiative.

Click [here](#) to register for the 2014 Maryland Million Hearts Symposium.

View the [SHIP measure](#) and [tools](#) for reducing deaths from heart disease.